

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A portable containment unit, comprising:
a cross member comprising recessed portions defined on opposite sides of the cross member forming at least one tapered end on the cross member adapted to support sports-related or other equipment;

at least one support member attached to and extending away from the cross member and configured to support the cross member above a ground surface; and

wherein the cross member further defines at least one receptacle orifice
~~positioned on the cross member and~~ configured to receive at least one object therein.

2. Cancelled

3. (currently amended) The portable containment unit of claim 2 1, wherein the cross member is elongated and comprises two ~~recessed portions positioned on opposite sides of the cross member~~ tapered ends located at opposite longitudinal ends of the cross member.

4. (currently amended) The portable containment unit of claim 3 1, ~~wherein each of the two recessed portions form a tapered cross member end,~~ wherein a ~~horseshoe~~ one or more horsehoes each having two legs with ridges at the ends thereof may be slid over and engage the tapered ~~cross member~~ end, such that the ridges rest upon an upper surface ~~adjacent the tapered~~ of the cross member end.

5. (original) The portable containment unit of claim 1, wherein the at least one support member further comprises a positioning element configured to removably position the cross member in a substantially parallel position with respect to the ground surface.

6. (original) The portable containment unit of claim 5, wherein the positioning element comprises a sharpened tip portion positioned on a distal end of the support member and configured to allow at least a portion of the support member to penetrate the ground surface, thereby securely positioning the cross member with respect to the ground surface.

7. (original) The portable containment unit of claim 5, wherein the positioning element comprises a plate member positioned on a distal end of the support member and configured to balance the cross member above the plate member via the support member, thereby securely positioning the cross member with respect to the ground surface.

8. (currently amended) The portable containment unit of claim 1, further comprising two support members attached to and extending away from ~~opposite ends of~~ the cross member.

9. (original) The portable containment unit of claim 8, wherein each support member includes a positioning element configured to removably position the cross member in a substantially parallel position with respect to the ground surface.

10. (original) The portable containment unit of claim 9, wherein the positioning elements each comprise a sharpened tip portion positioned on a distal end of each support member and configured to allow at least a portion of each support member to penetrate the ground surface, thereby securely positioning the cross member with respect to the ground surface.

11. (currently amended) The portable containment unit of claim 1, wherein ~~the cross member further comprises at least one receptacle orifice and~~ the at least one object comprises a receptacle is configured to slide within the receptacle orifice, such that the receptacle is engaged within the receptacle orifice.

12. (currently amended) The portable containment unit of claim 11, wherein the ~~at least one~~ receptacle includes a ridge portion, the ridge portion configured to

rest upon an upper edge area of the receptacle orifice, thereby removably securing the receptacle within the receptacle orifice.

13. Cancelled

14. (currently amended) A portable containment unit, comprising:

a an elongated cross member comprising ~~two~~ recessed portions ~~positioned defined~~ on opposite sides of the cross member forming two tapered ends located at opposite longitudinal ends of the cross member adapted to support sports-related or other equipment;

~~two at least one~~ support ~~members~~ member attached to and extending away from ~~opposite ends of~~ the cross member, ~~each~~ the support member including a positioning element configured to removably position the cross member in a substantially parallel position with respect to the ground surface; and

wherein the cross member further defines at least one receptacle orifice ~~positioned on the cross member and~~ configured to receive at least one object therein.

15. (currently amended) The portable containment unit of claim 14, ~~wherein each of the two recessed portions form a tapered cross member end;~~ wherein a ~~horseshoe~~ one or more horseshoes each having two legs with ridges at the ends thereof may be slid over and engage the tapered ~~cross member end~~ ends, such that the ridges rest upon an upper surface ~~adjacent the tapered of the cross member end.~~

16. (currently amended) The portable containment unit of claim 14, wherein the positioning ~~comprise~~ element comprises a sharpened tip portion positioned on a distal end of ~~each~~ the support member and configured to allow at least a portion of ~~each~~ the support member to penetrate the ground surface, thereby securely positioning the cross member with respect to the ground surface.

17. (currently amended) The portable containment unit of claim 14, wherein ~~the cross member further comprises at least one receptacle orifice and~~ the at least one object comprises a receptacle is configured to slide within the receptacle orifice, such that the receptacle is engaged within the receptacle orifice.

18. (currently amended) The portable containment unit of claim 17, wherein the ~~at least one~~ receptacle includes a ridge portion, the ridge portion configured to rest upon an upper edge area of the receptacle orifice, thereby removably securing the receptacle within the receptacle orifice.

19. (currently amended) The portable containment unit of claim ~~17~~ 14, wherein the cross member and support ~~members~~ member are made of wood or plastic ~~and the at least one receptacle is made of plastic~~.

20. Cancelled

21. (New) The portable containment unit of claim 1, wherein the cross member and the support member are made of wood or plastic.

22. (New) A portable containment unit, comprising:
a cross member comprising opposite ends adapted to support sports-related or other equipment, the cross member defining at least one receptacle orifice;
at least one support member attached to and extending away from the cross member and configured to support the cross member above a ground surface; and
at least one receptacle removably associated with the receptacle orifice, the receptacle configured to receive at least one object therein.

23. (New) The portable containment unit of claim 22, wherein the opposite ends of the cross member are tapered, the tapered ends formed by recessed portions defined on opposite sides of the cross member and which are adapted to support the sports-related or other equipment.